



November 12, 2019

Carlton Purvis  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 52983  
411A Highland Ave  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

VIA U.S. MAIL

Dear Mr. Purvis,

On August 27, 2019, the Tennessee Department of Safety & Homeland Security received your Public Records Act requests, as identified hereinabove, for "[a]ny email, text message, letter, memo or other digital or written communication, sent or received by any employee of your agency between April 25, 2018 and the date on which this request is processed which mentions the group 'American Renaissance.'" Your initial request did not include proof of Tennessee citizenship. On August 27, 2019, this Office requested proof of Tennessee citizenship. To date, we have not heard from you nor have we received proof of Tennessee citizenship.

After reviewing the request, the Department is unable to provide you with the requested records. As such, your request is denied. The basis for this denial is Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-503(a)(2)(A), which states that:

All state, county and municipal records shall, at all times during business hours, which for public hospitals shall be during the business hours of their administrative offices, be open for personal inspection by any citizen of this state, and those in charge of the records shall not refuse such right of inspection to any citizen, unless otherwise provided by state law.

[emphasis added]. See also McBurney v. Young, 133 S.Ct. 1709, 81 USLW 4276 (U.S. Supreme Court April 29, 2013). On May 21, 2019, this Department informed you via e-mail that in order to process your requests, we require proof of Tennessee citizenship *for each request*. As such, your request is denied. As the total charge to process your request was less than \$50.00, there will be no charge.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Morrison'.

Patrick Morrison  
Assistant General Counsel